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AUG - 2 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

VAW-4

NEW CLAIMS 6-13

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6. (new) A process for forming a tube-shaped hollow body, the process comprising:

shaping a slab-shaped semifinished product into a closed cross-sectional profile;

welding opposing edges of the semifinished product to produce the hollow body;

mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing the hollow body;

soft annealing the hollow body after the mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing; and hydroforming the hollow body after the soft annealing.

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7. (new) The process of claim 6 wherein the mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.

20 8. (new) The process of claim 6 further comprising soft annealing the hollow body before the mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing.

9. (new) The process of claim 8 wherein the mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing and the soft annealing after the mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing are performed multiple times in
5 sequence.

10. (new) The process of claim 6 wherein when the hollow body has an initial cross-section and a cross-section after hydroforming, the mechanically partially expanding or
10 partially reducing comprises expanding or reducing a portion of the hollow body in which the largest change between the initial cross-section and the cross-section after hydroforming is to occur.

11. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein the mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.
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12. (new) The process of claim 6 further comprising
20 applying further processing to the hollow body;
wherein:

when the applying comprises mechanical bending or mechanical shaping, the further processing is performed between the soft annealing and the hydroforming.

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13. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the mechanically partially expanding or partially reducing and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.
